

2002 Tornado Fatalities

The National Weather Service recorded 624 tornadoes in 2002. This number is well below the 3-year average of 1,142. The last year the count was low was in 1989 with 856 tornadoes. Tornado fatalities rose to 55 in 2002 from 2001's total of 40. Still tornado deaths have declined in the last 6 years and remains below the 30-year average of 69. Fifty-eight percent of the fatalities occurred in mobile homes, while 15 percent occurred in permanent homes. Male fatalities (29) were higher than female fatalities (26). For both males and females, the 30- to 69-age group seem to suffer the highest number of fatalities with 65 percent.

The Veterans Day Weekend tornado outbreak of November 9-11, 2002, was the second largest on record in November over the eastern United States. Seventy-six tornadoes resulted in 36 fatalities. Tennessee was hardest hit with 17 fatalities. Alabama had 12 of the 13 fatalities from the Veterans Day Weekend event. An F4 tornado struck the town of Van Wert, Ohio, resulting in no fatalities to a cinema complex that took a direct hit. A tornado warning was received prompting the manager to shut off the movies and directing 60 people into safer areas. The walls and roof of one theater were destroyed and three vehicles were thrown into the front row seats.

2002 TORNADO FATALITIES BY STATE AND LOCATION

<u>STATE</u>	<u>BU</u>	<u>LS</u>	<u>MH</u>	<u>OT</u>	<u>OU</u>	<u>PH</u>	<u>SC</u>	<u>VE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
AL	0	0	10	0	1	2	0	0	13
AR	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
IL	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	4
KY	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
LA	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
MD	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
MO	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	4
MS	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
OH	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	5
PA	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
TN	0	0	10	0	0	5	0	2	17
TX	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	3
TOTAL	0	0	32	1	2	15	1	4	55
PERCENT	0	0	58	2	4	27	2	7	100

2002 TORNADO FATALITIES BY AGE AND GENDER

	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>UNKNOWN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
0 TO 9	1	0	0	1	2
10 TO 19	2	3	0	5	9
20 TO 29	0	1	0	1	2
30 TO 39	7	1	0	8	15
40 TO 49	2	7	0	9	16
50 TO 59	1	9	0	10	18
60 TO 69	7	2	0	9	16
70 TO 79	4	2	0	6	11
80 TO 89	1	2	0	3	5
90 TO --	1	1	0	2	4
UNKNOWN	0	1	0	1	2
TOTAL	26	29	0	55	100
PERCENT	47	53	0	100	

LEGEND

BU - Business
 LS - Long-Span Roof
 MH - Mobile Home
 OT - Other/Unknown
 OU - Outside Open
 PH - Permanent Home
 SC - School
 VE - Vehicle